AMERICA IN FRANCE

VI.—Lorraine

More than any other part of the land of the fleur-de-lys, Lorraine is "America in France." It was in Lorraine that American troops first entered the line to train; it was in Lorraine, north of Toul, that American troops first entered the line as fighting men, fit, trained and ready; and American troops have, since that October day in 1917, held some part of the Lorraine line.

Most of us—now that we are 1,500,000 strong, by far the larger part of us were still in the States then—can remember the thrill that went from coast to coast when the cables brought word that American and German had met in their first clash of arms. That clash, we now know, occurred in Lorraine.

The history of Lorraine as a territorial unit dates from 843, when the Treaty of Verdun divided the kingdom of Louis I, called the Pious, also the Debonair, among his three sons—who were also grandsons of Charlemagne — Lothair, Louis the German and Charles the Bold.

French and German

There was considerable fighting before the partition was effected. Charles and Louis combined to do battle against their brother, and their alliance, made on their father's death in 1840, was renewed two years later in the famous Strassburg oaths. The fame of the Strassburg oaths is that, since the allied armies spoke different tongues, the covenant was written in both languages —the languages from which, going their different ways, have developed French and German.

The treaty of Verdun gave Lothair "the Middle Kingdom," an indefinite wedge of territory stretching from the North Sea to the Mediterranean along the valleys of the Rhine and the lower Rhine. To Louis went the region to the west, to Charles that to the east.

The treaty of Verdun, therefore, separated once and for all the three groups —Italians, Germans and Gallo-Franks—who had constituted the vast amalgam of lands and peoples of whose destinies the then tottering Carlovingian dynasty had been supreme arbiter.

Heritage of Wars and Woe

Lothair's kingdom speedily began to reap its heritage of wars and woe. It passed to Lothair's second son, Lothair II, and it was from this second Lothair that it derived its name—Lothair's Kingdom, Lothari Regnum, Lotharingia, Lorraine. This Lothair, instead of committing the typical Carlovingian error of leaving too many children, went his forebears one better and left none. Lorraine was divided between his father's brothers, the two kings who had sworn to the Strassburg oaths. France and Germany were in process of evolution.

It is striking testimony to the tumultuous character of the Europe of that day that, between 910 and 955, Lorraine was five times ravaged by Hungarian incursions. In the latter year the invaders were so badly defeated that they did not come again, and the country began to rise from its ruins.

Of all the invasions that have been visited upon Lorraine, before or since, perhaps none stands out in history so vividly as that led by Charles the Bold in 1477, when western Europe was still aremble with recollections of the Hundred Years' War, the war that brought Jeanne d'Arc out of Lorraine, brought her to the relief of besieged Orleans in 1429, and led her to the stake at Rouen in 1431.

Nancy Is Besieged

Charles's only virtue was his boldness, and even that went too far. In his struggle, now crafty, now open, always bloody, against Louis XI—who was as far removed from sainthood as his stubborn and implacable enemy—he set as excellent an example of how to wage one kind of war as even the Kaiser could wish to follow.

In 1475 he made peace with Louis that he might seek game elsewhere. He overwhelmed Lorraine, invaded Switzerland, was driven out in utter rout, lost two-thirds of his men in another battle, and then decided to retire to his castle. Two months later, as he was brooding over his plight, word came that the young Duke of Lorraine was besieging Nancy.

Thither, with the remnant of his army, went Charles. He arrived before Nancy to find that, three days before, the city had capitulated to his enemy. On January 5, 1477, a battle was fought near Nancy which witnessed the death of Charles and the dispersion of his already badly mauled army. His mangled body was found two days later on the muddy bank of a frozen brook. It was the death he deserved, perhaps it was the death he would have wished. By the young duke's orders, he was given an honorable burial.

Name Linked With Alsace

It was during the days of Richelieu, the great churchman-statesman, whose name outshines that of his master (or servant), Louis XIII, that the name of Lorraine became first linked with that of Alsace. The cession of Alsace to France, officially marked in 1648, six years after Richelieu's death, by the treaty of Westphalia, ending the devastating Thirty Years' War, pushed the frontier of France eastward to its natural boundary, the Rhine.

Lorraine itself, however, did not cease to be a duchy and become part of France, until the death of Stanilas Leczinski in 1766. Just how anyone named Stanislas Leczinski came to be mixed up in the history of Lorraine or of France is more easily explained than might appear on the surface. Stanislas I, father-in-law of Louis XV, aspired to the Polish crown, was elected (for the Polish monarchy was elective) and was then refused recognition by Russia and Prussia. The Russians seized Warsaw, and Stanislas led back to France, leaving his cause to collapse.

To compensate for the loss of Poland, he was granted the Duchy of Lorraine and the then duke, Francis, was given Tuscany, in Italy. But it was provided that on the death of Stanislas, Lorraine should be united in perpetuity to France

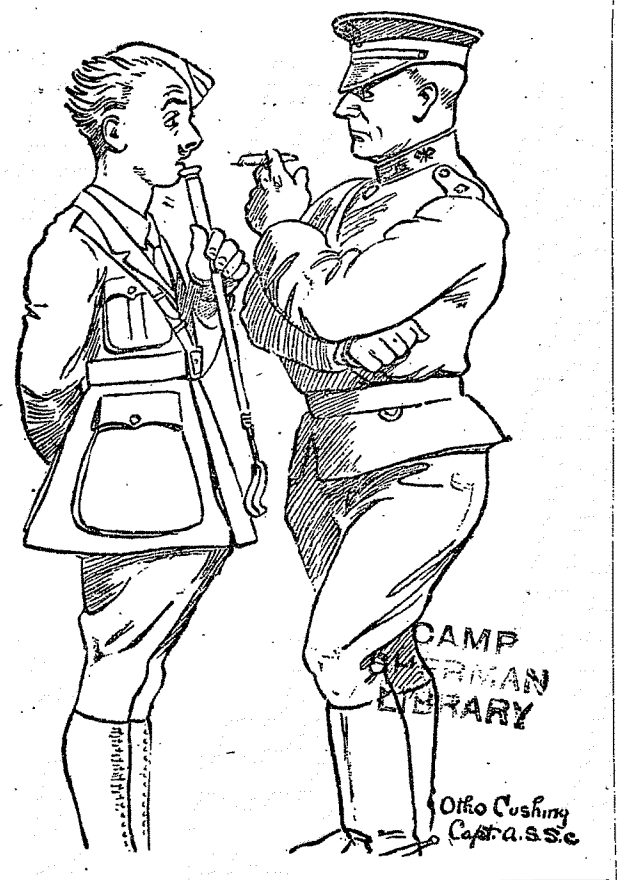
Perpetual—Until 1871

That perpetuity lasted, as all the world knows, until 1871. The treaty of Frankfort, which ended the Franco Prussian War and thereby marked down a date that belongs in any chronological table of the war that began in 1914 ceded to Prussia, in addition to all of Alsace (the departments of Haut-Rhin and Bas-Rhin), the arrondissements of Metz, Thionville, Sarreguemines, Château-Salins and Sarrebourg—only a part of Lorraine, but a part rich not only in coal and iron, but in love for France.

President Poincaré and Gen. Pétain are both natives of French Lorraine.

Lorraine has a language, rather a patois, of its own, but that language is not German. In Lorraine they say gèmé instead of jumeau (twin), dotell for *dentelle* (lace), *chambe* for *chambre*. They call cheese *fourmage*, not *fromage*. But they do not call it *Kase*. They would if they were German.

The C.O. Congratulates Young Airman on His Snappy Getup



MEDICS ARE GRADED IN PROMOTION LIST

Age, Service, Hardships and Gallantry Count in Ratings

MEN UNDER 31 HELD BACK

Older Officers Eligible for Advancement After One Year; Those of Draft Age Must Wait

The Chief Surgeon's office is doing all that can be done to accelerate the promotion of officers of the Medical Reserve Corps. On July 29 recommendations were sent in for the promotion of 98 officers serving with the British Expeditionary Forces, and on July 30 58 other officers were recommended.

In addition, it is stated that the policy adopted with regard to the promotion of M.R.C. officers will also be applied to the Dental Reserve Corps; and the Chief Surgeon is authorized to forward any recommendations for promotions which he believes should be made for the purpose of rectifying inequalities in grade due to mistakes in original appointments.

The policy governing Medical Reserve Corps promotions recognizes that several factors should be considered in determining the rank of a member of the medical profession coming into the Army in time of war to give voluntary service. The first is age and length of professional experience. The second is length of active service. The third is the character of that active or military service, taking into consideration whether or not it has been distinguished by unusual self-denial, gallantry, efficiency or hardships which would entitle the giver of it to advancement.

C.O.'s Make Recommendations

In order to accumulate data for determining these factors in the case of every medical officer in line for promotion, commanding officers and senior medical officers are to furnish recommendations in the case of M.R.C. officers serving under them. With this exception, however: Officers under the draft age of 31 years will not be promoted except in special cases where they have rendered unusually distinguished service and have been more than a year on active duty.

All officers of the Medical Corps in Europe will be placed on a roster according to age in each grade. An officer's age will be determined by taking his actual age and adding four months for each month of service. All lieutenants whose actual age is above 31 and who have completed one year's service will be eligible for recommendation to be promoted to captain. In general, promotions will be according to seniority, as determined by the roster.

Taking the number of first lieutenants in the Medical Reserve Corps in the A.E.F. as a basis, the number of officers in the grades of captain and major shall be, it is stipulated, not greater than that authorized by the proportion of one lieutenant to three and nine-tenths captains to one and seven-tenths majors—which is approximately the proportion between the same grades in the Regular Medical Corps, at the time of the passage of the Medical Reserve law. The present recommendations for promotion to majorities embrace only those M.R.C. officers above the age of 40, and for promotion to captaincies, only those lieutenants above the age of 35, except in special instances.

MUST GIVE NAME AND RANK

Letters of sympathy sent through the Central Records Office—as all such letters must be—should contain the full name, rank and organization of the soldier to whom reference is made by the writers of the letters. This information need not be given in the body of the letter, so long as it is inclosed on a separate slip of paper. It is proper, for instance, to refer in the letter to "your son, Frank," but in that case the required information should be supplied for purposes of verification at the Central Records Office.

NOT THE ARM'S FAULT

"What arm of the service is Gubbleone in?"

"Search me, but if he's in it, it must be in a sling."

GOVERNMENT TO PAY FOR LOST PROPERTY

Fund of $200,000 to Replace Destroyed or Captured Equipment

If you should happen to come to France on a transport that should get torpedoed or collided with, or suffered such other mishap as would sink it or let a lot of water into it, and if you should devote all your attention to saving the grand piano in the Mess Sergeant's Saloon, or the silver service in the Admiral's Pantry while your three pairs of socks and your suit and a half of O. D. underwear went by the board—if all that happened, the Government would pay you or give you new equipment to replace what you had lost.

A fund of $200,000 has been set aside for the purpose, so if your individual losses exceed that value, you're out of luck on the excess.

Claims to Be Honored

The Government will honor claims of officers, enlisted men and Army nurses for losses of required private property in case of sea disaster, destruction or capture by the enemy—or destruction to prevent capture—and "when it appears that such private property was lost or destroyed in consequence of its owner having given his attention to the saving of property belonging to the United States which was in danger at the same time and under similar circumstances."

Detailed regulations governing the procedure for settlement of such claims are given in a new G.H.Q. bulletin 52, as presented in an act of Congress of March 28, 1918.

The act states that each claim for compensation will be forwarded through military channels to the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F., and will, if possible, be accompanied by the proceedings of a board of officers showing fully the circumstances of the loss.

RECRUITING PLANS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Service to Be Established by Commanding General of S. O. S.

OBVIATES RETURN TO U.S.

Men of Military Age Must Volunteer, Be Drafted or Become Liable to British Army

A general recruiting service for the United States Army is to be established in Great Britain by the Commanding General, S.O.S. Stations will be established in such places as are deemed suitable for the purpose and officers and soldiers of the A.E.F. detailed to duty at these stations.

By the terms of the convention agreed to by the United States and Great Britain for the reciprocal military service of citizens of either country who may be in the other, all males citizens of the United States in Great Britain are required to do one of four things: Enlist in the U.S. Army, return to America for the purpose of military service, obtain a certificate of exemption from American diplomatic representatives in Britain (these will be issued to all American citizens outside of the draft age), or, having failed to do any of the above, become subject to compulsory service in the British Army unless exempted by British law.

Whom Service Will Reach

The recruiting service, authorized by G.O. 129, will therefore reach the following classes of American citizens in Great Britain:

Those between 18 and 40 who want to volunteer.

Those of draft age—21 to 31, inclusive, at present—who elect not to return to the United States and there subject themselves to the operation of the draft law, but instead present themselves for enlistment before the expiration of 60 days after the exchange of ratification of the convention referred to above.

Those not subject to the draft law who later become liable to it and prefer not to return to America, and present themselves for enlistment within 30 days after the occurrence of their liability.

Those holding temporary or conditional certificates of exemption, who, when those certificates become inoperative, remain in Britain and present themselves for enlistment within 30 days.

Those who have applied for exemption, have been refused it, and present themselves within 30 days after the denial of exemption.

Applicants presenting themselves will be examined and, if found qualified, will be enlisted for F.S. Infantry only. They will be classified and assigned to such branches of the service as is deemed proper.

OFFICER PRISONERS DO NOT GET SALUTE

Story That British Do It Just a Good Old Hun Yarn

English soldiers do not salute German officers who are prisoners of war. When English soldiers meet German officers who are not yet prisoners of war, they are too busy to bother about saluting them. The German officers, in that case, do the saluting by saying uncle and being marched off, or else fight it out man to man, catch as catch can, rank distinctions barred, and devil take the hindmost.

The story that British soldiers were compelled to salute eGrman officers prisoners has spread through the A.E.F. with such persistence as to make it appear probable that enemy propaganda had something to do with getting the yarn going and keeping it in circulation.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that American soldiers don't salute German officers prisoners either.